

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Appln. No. 10/792,353

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17 (new). An apparatus for distributing gobs of molten glass from a gob feeder in a predetermined sequence through stationary channels onto molds of a plurality of sections of a glass forming machine, said apparatus comprising:

at least one scoop channel having a first end adapted to receive said gobs from said feeder and a second end alignable with one of said stationary channels, said scoop channel being rotatable about an axis for aligning said second end of said scoop channel with said stationary channels;

a pinion attached to said scoop channel proximate to said first end thereof, said pinion being fixed to and rotatable with said scoop channel about said axis;

an electrical motor for rotating said pinion and thereby rotating said scoop channel about said axis;

a gear train transmitting torque from said motor to said pinion, said gear train including a worm gear engaged with said motor, said motor being adapted to rotate said worm gear in a reciprocating manner, a worm wheel engaged with said worm gear and rotatable in response to rotation of said worm gear, a toothed wheel mounted coaxially with said worm wheel and fixed thereto so as to rotate with said worm wheel, said toothed wheel driving said pinion for effecting rotation of said scoop channel upon rotation of said worm gear by said motor.

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18 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising an intermediate toothed wheel engaging both said pinion and said toothed wheel, said intermediate toothed wheel transmitting torque from said toothed wheel to said pinion for effecting rotation of said scoop channel upon rotation of said worm gear by said motor.

19 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising first and second intermediate toothed wheels, each engaging said toothed wheel, said first intermediate toothed wheel engaging a first one of said pinions, said second intermediate toothed wheel engaging a second one of said pinions, said first and second pinions being attached, respectively, to first and second ones of said scoop channels, said first and second intermediate toothed wheels transmitting torque from said toothed wheel to said first and second pinions for effecting rotation of said first and second scoop channels upon rotation of said worm gear by said motor.

20 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said first and second intermediate toothed wheels each engage only one of said pinions.

21 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said second intermediate toothed wheel engages a third one of said pinions, said third pinion being attached to a third one of said scoop channels, said second intermediate toothed wheel transmitting torque from said toothed wheel to said third pinion for effecting rotation of said third scoop channel upon rotation of said worm gear by said motor.

22 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein each of said intermediate toothed wheels engages two of said pinions.

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23 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said scoop channel comprises:

a housing;

a sleeve rotatably mounted within said housing, said sleeve defining an axial aperture coaxially aligned with said first end of said scoop channel, said axial aperture adapted to receive and pass said gobs therethrough; and

said pinion comprises an externally-toothed ring surrounding said sleeve and attached thereto, said sleeve being attached to and rotating with said first end of said scoop channel.

24 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said scoop channel comprises:

a housing;

a sleeve rotatably mounted within said housing, said sleeve defining an axial aperture coaxially aligned with said first end of said scoop channel, said axial aperture adapted to receive and pass said gobs therethrough; and

said pinion comprises an externally-toothed ring surrounding said sleeve and attached thereto, said sleeve being attached to and rotating with said first end of said scoop channel.

25 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein each of said scoop channels comprises:

a housing;

a sleeve rotatably mounted within said housing, said sleeve defining an axial aperture coaxially aligned with said first end of said scoop channel, said axial aperture adapted to receive and pass said gobs therethrough; and

said pinion on each said scoop channel comprises an externally-toothed ring surrounding said sleeve and attached

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thereto, said sleeve being attached to and rotating with said first end of said scoop channel.

26 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each of said scoop channels comprises:

a housing;

a sleeve rotatably mounted within said housing, said sleeve defining an axial aperture coaxially aligned with said first end of said scoop channel, said axial aperture adapted to receive and pass said gobs therethrough; and

said pinion on each said scoop channel comprises an externally-toothed ring surrounding said sleeve and attached thereto, said sleeve being attached to and rotating with said first end of said scoop channel.

27 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein each of said scoop channels comprises:

a housing;

a sleeve rotatably mounted within said housing, said sleeve defining an axial aperture coaxially aligned with said first end of said scoop channel, said axial aperture adapted to receive and pass said gobs therethrough; and

said pinion on each said scoop channel comprises an externally-toothed ring surrounding said sleeve and attached thereto, said sleeve being attached to and rotating with said first end of said scoop channel.

28 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising:

an outer sleeve mounted on said housing; and

a connection sleeve rotatably mounted coaxially within said outer sleeve, said connection sleeve extending between and coaxially aligned with said sleeve and said first end of said scoop channel, said scoop channel comprising a

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side wall having first and second cooling ducts extending therethrough, said connection sleeve having first and second annular ducts sealed with respect to one another, said first annular duct being in fluid communication with said first cooling duct and a cooling medium supply line in said outer sleeve, said second annular duct being in fluid communication with said second cooling duct and a cooling medium return line in said outer sleeve.

29 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising:

an outer sleeve mounted on said housing; and
a connection sleeve rotatably mounted coaxially within said outer sleeve, said connection sleeve extending between and coaxially aligned with said sleeve and said first end of said scoop channel, said scoop channel comprising a side wall having a cooling duct extending therethrough and open to the atmosphere, said connection sleeve having an annular duct in fluid communication with said cooling duct and a cooling gas supply line in said outer sleeve.

30 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said intermediate toothed wheel comprises first and second partial toothed wheels positioned in overlying relation coaxially aligned with one another, said first and second partial toothed wheels being rotationally adjustable with respect to each other about an axis of rotation in order to minimize clearance between the intermediate toothed wheel and the pinion and the toothed wheel at the periphery thereof, means being provided for fixing a relative rotational position of said first partial toothed wheel to said second partial toothed wheel.

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31 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein each of said intermediate toothed wheels comprises first and second partial toothed wheels positioned in overlying relation coaxially aligned with one another, said first and second partial toothed wheels being rotationally adjustable with respect to each other about an axis of rotation in order to minimize clearance between the intermediate toothed wheels and the pinions and the toothed wheel at the periphery thereof, means being provided for fixing a relative rotational position of said first partial toothed wheel to said second partial toothed wheel for each of said intermediate toothed wheels.

32 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each of said intermediate toothed wheels comprises first and second partial toothed wheels positioned in overlying relation coaxially aligned with one another, said first and second partial toothed wheels being rotationally adjustable about an axis of rotation with respect to each other in order to minimize clearance between the intermediate toothed wheels and the pinions and the toothed wheel at the periphery thereof, means being provided for fixing a relative rotational position of said first partial toothed wheel to said second partial toothed wheel for each of said intermediate toothed wheels.

33 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein each of said intermediate toothed wheels comprises first and second partial toothed wheels positioned in overlying relation coaxially aligned with one another, said first and second partial toothed wheels being rotationally adjustable about an axis of rotation with respect to each other in order to minimize clearance between the intermediate toothed wheels and the pinions and the toothed wheel at the periphery thereof,

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means being provided for fixing a relative rotational position of said first partial toothed wheel to said second partial toothed wheel for each of said intermediate toothed wheels.

34 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said intermediate toothed wheel comprises first and second partial toothed wheels positioned in overlying relation coaxially aligned with one another, said first and second partial toothed wheels being rotationally adjustable about an axis of rotation with respect to each other in order to minimize clearance between the intermediate toothed wheel and the pinion and the toothed wheel at the periphery thereof, means being provided for fixing a relative rotational position of said first partial toothed wheel to said second partial toothed wheel.

35 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein said means for fixing said relative rotational position comprises an eccentric bolt having a first portion with a circular cross section rotatably mounted within an axially extending first bore positioned in said first partial toothed wheel eccentrically to said axis of rotation, said first bore having a shape complementary to said circular cross section, said eccentric bolt further having a second portion having a non-round cross section positioned within an axially extending second bore eccentrically positioned in said second partial toothed wheel, rotation of said bolt relatively to said partial toothed wheels fixing said relative rotational position of said partial toothed wheels to one another about said axis of rotation.

36 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein said first and second partial toothed wheels are engaged with both said toothed wheel and with at least one of said pinions.

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37 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein said first and second partial toothed wheels are engaged with both said toothed wheel and with at least one of said pinions.

38 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a coupling connecting said electrical motor to said worm gear.

39 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising a coupling connecting said electrical motor to said worm gear.

40 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising a coupling connecting said electrical motor to said worm gear.

41 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a means for pivotally mounting said apparatus on said glass forming machine for reciprocally pivoting said apparatus about a vertical axis.

42 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising a means for pivotally mounting said apparatus on said glass forming machine for reciprocally pivoting said apparatus about a vertical axis.

43 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising a means for pivotally mounting said apparatus on said glass forming machine for reciprocally pivoting said apparatus about a vertical axis.

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44 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 41, further comprising a piston and cylinder for effecting pivoting movement of said apparatus relatively to said glass forming machine, said cylinder being attached in a pivotable manner to said glass forming machine, said apparatus comprising a lever to which said piston is pivotably attached.

45 (new). Apparatus according to Claim 44, further comprising a positioning body mounted on said lever in spaced apart relation to a longitudinal axis thereof, said positioning body cooperating with a positioning stop mounted on said glass forming machine for positioning said lever in a normal position in both a horizontal and vertical direction.